

SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

Key Points to Consider:

1. Montana has not distributed routine childhood vaccines with thimerosal used as a preservative since 2001, with the exception of the influenza vaccine.
2. There is no scientific evidence of harm caused by thimerosal in vaccines. The concern is theoretical.
3. A ban on thimerosal could make it very difficult to obtain the needed supply of thimerosal-free influenza vaccine.

Thimerosal Legislation in Other States:

1. Only seven states have banned or limited thimerosal: California, Iowa, Delaware, Illinois, Missouri, New York and Washington. (See Table 1 for details.)
2. Between 2003 and 2006, 31 states have attempted to ban or limit thimerosal, but failed due to the risks posed to the influenza vaccine supply. In twenty-four states bills were wisely rejected due to testimony regarding the risks posed to the influenza vaccine supply.
3. There is a long list of professional health groups that have opposed legislation in other states (attached).

Organizations in Opposition to Thimerosal Bans:

The following are some of the organizations that have joined to oppose the banning of thimerosal due to the effect on restricting access to vaccines:

Ambulatory Pediatric Association
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Physician Assistants
American College of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology
American College of Preventive Medicine
American Liver Foundation
American Medical Directors Association
American Pharmacists Association
Association of Immunization Program Managers
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists
Every Child By Two
Hepatitis B Foundation
Hepatitis B Foundation International
Immunization Action Coalition
Infectious Diseases Society of America
National Coalition on Adult Immunization
National Foundation for Infectious Diseases
Parents of Kids with Infectious Diseases
Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society
Society for Adolescent Medicine
Society of Teachers of Family Medicine
Vaccine Education Center at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

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Organizations in Support of Thimerosal Bans:

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| Action Against Autism (UK) | www.actagainstaautism.org.uk |
| Adventures in Autism | www.adventuresinautism.blogspot.com |
| Advocates for Children's Health Affected by Mercury Poisoning (A-CHAMP) | |
| Alliance for Human Research Protection | www.achamp.org |
| Angels Wings for Autism | www.ahrp.org |
| Approaching Autism with Advocacy, Recovery and Education | www.angelswingsforautism.org |
| ARROW Autism Recovery Resources (Washington) | www.aaware.org |
| Autism One | N/A |
| Autism Recovery Network | www.autismone.org |
| Autism Research Institute | www.autismrecoverynetwork.org |
| Autism Society of America | www.autismwebsite.com |
| Autism Solution Center | www.autismsociety.org |
| Autism Speaks | www.autismsolutioncenter.com |
| Autism Spectrum Intervention | www.autismspeaks.org |
| Autism Truth | N/A |
| Autism: Making a Difference | www.autismtruth.com |
| BEAT-IOWA (Biomedical Education for Autism Treatments) | N/A |
| Brenen Hornstein Autism Research & Education | N/A |
| Center for Autistic Spectrum Disorder | www.bhare.org |
| Coalition for Mercury Free Drugs | www.recoveryprotocol.com |
| Connecticut Vaccine Information Alliance | www.mercuryfreedugs.org |
| Cure Autism Now | www.ctvia.org |
| Dads Against Mercury | www.cureautismnow.org |
| Defeat Autism Now | www.dadsagainstmercury.org/index.ph |
| Educate Before You Vaccinate | www.autismwebsite.com/ari/dan/dan.ht |
| Evidence of Harm | www.educatebeforeyouvaccinate.com |
| Fight Autism Now | www.evidenceofharm.com |
| Fighting Autism | www.fightautismnow.com |
| Floyd County Autism North Georgia Support Group | www.fightingautism.org |
| Foundation for Autism Information and Research (F.A.I.R.) Autism Media | N/A |
| Foundation for Health Choice | www.autismmedia.org |
| Generation Rescue | www.foundationforhealthchoice.com |
| Global Vaccine Awareness League | www.generationrescue.org |
| Heal Autism Now Delaware | www.gval.com |
| Healing Every Autistic Life (HEAL) | www.handelaware.org/index.htm |
| Health Advocacy in the Public Interest | www.healnow.org |
| KindTree Productions | www.hapihealth.com |
| Maryland Autism Recovery Coalition (MARC) | www.kindtree.org |
| Medical Interventions for Autism | www.parenttoparentnh.org/ezhomepq/ |
| Mercury Free Maryland | www.host239.ipowerweb.com/~miaauti |
| Moms Against Mercury (MoMA) | N/A |
| Moms on a Mission For Autism | www.momsagainstmercury.org |
| Mothers Actively Fight for the Eradication of Autism (MAFEA) | www.momsonamissionforautism.org |
| National Autism Association | N/A |
| National Coalition of Organized Women | www.nationalautismassociation.org |
| National Vaccine Information Center | www.progressiveconvergence.com |
| | www.909shot.com |

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| Natural Solutions Foundation | www.healthfreedomusa.org |
| No Mercury | www.nomercury.org |
| Parents of Autistic Children | www.poac.net |
| Parents Requesting Open Vaccine Education | www.vaccineinfo.net |
| People Advocating Vaccine Education | www.vaccines.bizland.com |
| Project SEA (Socialization, Education and Awareness) | www.projectsea.org |
| Seeking Treatment and Recovery (STAR) | N/A |
| Southside Support Group for Parents of Children on Autism Spectrum | N/A |
| SPEAK - Support Parents and Empower Autistic/Asperger's Kids | N/A |
| Supporting Autism and Families Everywhere (SAFE) Pennsylvania | www.autismsafe.org/default.aspx |
| Talk About Curing Autism | N/A |
| Texas Autism Advocacy | www.texasautismadvocacy.org |
| The Autism Auto-Immunity Project | www.taap.info |
| The Coalition of Safe Minds | www.safeminds.org |
| The International Medical Veritas Association | www.imva.info |
| The Schafer Autism Report | N/A |
| The Unsolved Puzzle | www.theunsolvedpuzzle.com |
| The Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church – Reverend Lisa Sykes | N/A |
| Thimerosal Litigation | www.thimerosallitigation.com |
| Thimerosal News | www.thimerosalnews.com |
| Think Twice Global Vaccine Institute | www.thinktwice.com |
| Thunder Mountain Autism Spectrum Disorder Support Group | N/A |
| Treating Autism | N/A |
| Uninformed Consent | www.uninformedconsent.org |
| Unlocking Autism | www.unlockingautism.org |
| US Autism and Asperger Association | www.usautism.org |
| Vaccine Injury Alliance | www.vaccineinjury.org |
| Vaccine Liberation | www.vaclib.org |
| Vaccine Risk Awareness Network (Canada) | www.vran.org |
| Vaccine Truth | www.vaccinetruth.org |
| F.A.I.R. Autism Media (Foundation for Autism Research and Information, Inc.) | www.autismmedia.org |
| University of Miami Center for Autism & Related Disabilities (CARD) | www.umcard.org |
| Autism Education Network | www.autismeducation.net |
| Autism Bill | www.autismbill.org |
| Asperger Syndrome Education Network, Inc. (ASPEN) | www.aspennj.org |
| Online Asperger Syndrome Information and Support (OASIS) | www.udel.edu/bkirby/asperger |
| National Institute of Child Health and Human Development Autism Website | www.nichd.nih.gov/autism |
| Autism Law | www.AboutAutismLaw.com |
| Autism Speaks | www.autismspeaks.org |
| National Alliance for Autism Research (NAAR) | www.naar.org |

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Table 1. Details of Thimerosal Related Legislation Passed in Other States.

| State | Effective Date | Ages | Pregnant women | Limits on flu vax | Limits on all other vax | Payor |
|-------|----------------|--------|----------------|-------------------|-------------------------|-------|
| CA | 7/1/2006 | <3 yrs | ✓ | ≤1.0 µg/0.5 ml | ≤0.5 µg/0.5 ml | |
| DE | 1/1/2006 | <8 yrs | ✓ | exempted | trace* | |
| | 1/1/2007 | <8 yrs | ✓ | trace* | trace* | |
| | 1/1/2008 | <8 yrs | ✓ | no Hg | no Hg | |
| IL | 1/1/2006 | all | ✓ | ≤1.25 µg/dose | ≤1.25 µg/dose | |
| | 1/1/2008 | all | ✓ | no Hg | no Hg | |
| IA | 1/1/2006 | <8 yrs | | | trace* | ✓ |
| MO | 4/1/2007 | <3 yrs | ✓ | ≤1.0 µg/0.5 ml | ≤1.0 µg/0.5 ml | ✓ |
| NY | 7/1/2008 | <3 yrs | ✓ | ≤1.25 µg/0.5 ml | ≤0.5 µg/0.5 ml | |

* trace defined as "meeting FDA requirements" (generally ≤1.0 µg/0.5 ml)

Note: WA legislation is very recent and not included above.

Testimony for Newborn Screening – Marian Kummer, MD

I would like to testify in favor of an expanded newborn screening program. My name is Marian Kummer and I have practiced pediatrics in Billings for the past 26 years. I just completed two years as the president of the Montana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. I also just finished a grant that surveyed 1000 families in Montana who have children with special needs. I served on the newborn screening task force.

We can now screen for at least 100 diseases in the newborn. A national task force met to try to determine which tests would be appropriate for all newborns in the United States. Their criteria were a condition that could be identified early before clinical signs, a condition that had an accurate test with a low level of false positives and a condition that had demonstrated benefits of early detection. They determined that 28 conditions and hearing screening met these criteria. Their conclusions have been endorsed by the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American College of Medical Genetics, the CDC, the March of Dimes and others.

We need to ensure that all the infants in Montana are screened for these tests. Now only half get the expanded testing. Why should an infant born in one part of our state be at a disadvantage because his birth hospital has elected not to do the expanded screening? When I ask new mothers if they want this screening, they almost uniformly agree. The cost is miniscule-\$33-compared to the cost of determining the condition later. The cost of not detecting some of these conditions could be death. By determining the conditions early it allows the family the knowledge of the risk to future children.

Expanded newborn screening is not just the tests. A system needs to be in place for followup and treatment of these conditions. Most of the conditions are rare. An individual doctor may not have heard of the condition and will need help in determining the needed follow up testing, treatment and information on the condition. We have heard of a family moving out of our state because they and their doctor did not know where the child could get care.

In my survey of 1000 families with children with special health care needs the number one need cited was clinics for their child's special condition. Clinics need to be in place to provide pediatric sub specialty care. This is especially important in our state that lacks a tertiary medical center for pediatrics. We have very few pediatric sub specialists in Montana and have many that come from Denver, Spokane, Utah and Seattle to provide clinics. These need to be adequately funded. A pediatric nutritionist is particularly important to help with the special diets needed for some of the metabolic diseases detected on the newborn screening tests. These in state clinics save the families the expense and hassle of traveling out of state and raise the level of medical care immensely. The out of state doctors that come to Billings usually give us lectures and consults on the children unable to get into their clinics.

The Montana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics endorses expanded newborn screening and the development of a more comprehensive follow up program. We feel every newborn in Montana deserves the opportunity to be screened for diseases that are not apparent at birth and that could impact his or hers health in the immediate future. Our children should not be at a disadvantage as compared to children born in most other states in America.